

Catherine McCracken
08/08/98 08:13 PM

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cc: (bcc: Catherine McCracken/R9/USEPA/US)

Subject: 8/25/98 and 8/27/98 stakeholder forums on perchlorate

(Note: If you do not wish to receive future email messages regarding the Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee, please send an email message to: mccracken.catherine@epamail.epa.gov or reply to this message.

Thank you,
Catherine McCracken, Community Involvement Specialist, USEPA Region 9)

The Interagency Perchlorate Steering Committee (IPSC) will be holding two one-day forums for stakeholders:

Tuesday, August 25, 1998 in Salt Lake City and Magna, Utah and
Thursday, August 27, 1998 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Ammonium perchlorate is an inorganic salt used in solid rocket fuel, in munitions and in the pyrotechnics industry. Perchlorate manufacturers estimate that approximately 90% of perchlorate is used for solid rocket fuel. Ammonium perchlorate dissolves as easily as table salt, and the resulting anion is stable and can persist for decades in the environment, and moves easily through both groundwater and surface water. Perchlorate has been detected in 110 public water supply wells in California from at least 14 distinct sources, in the Colorado River from sources in Nevada, and in surface or groundwater in Utah, Texas, New York, Maryland, and Arkansas.

A number of key pieces of information are necessary to characterize the risk of perchlorate contamination in order to formulate appropriate management strategies to mitigate potential risk. Accurate characterization of exposures rely on reliable analytical detection methods. The exposure estimates cannot be gauged with respect to their risk unless a robust health risk estimate is available. Treatment technologies should be targeted to levels of concern and tailored to the intended use of the water. Research to obtain additional data and development of new methods or applications are underway in most of these areas to ensure that the state-of-the-science is brought to bear on addressing the unique issues of perchlorate contamination. Technology transfer is necessary so that all affected parties and concerned citizens are apprised of accurate and reliable information that is up to date with the evolving state-of-the-science.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the forums is to disseminate information on the key scientific issues and hear stakeholder concerns related to potential perchlorate contamination in the environment. The forums will cover a broad range of topics including: